SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Amend the title of the application to read as follows:

IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS WITH FUNCTION OF SORTING PLURALITY OF SHEAVES OF ORIGINAL PAPER

Amend paragraph 0033 of the application to read as follows:

[0033] The copying-paper receiver 503 includes a receiving member (not shown) which receives and holds the lower edge of copying paper carried into the copying-paper receiver 503, and a driving portion (not shown) which moves the receiving member in the direction where the copying paper is carried out. The driving portion ~~2~~ is driven according to control signals from the controlling section 2, thereby forwarding the copying paper held in the receiving member up to the discharging roller pair 507. Then, the discharging roller pair 507 discharges the copying paper onto the sorting outlet tray 506.

Amend paragraph 0034 of the application to read as follows:

[0034] On the back-surface side of the copying-paper receiver 503, a copying-paper sideway-moving mechanism 521 is provided which can move the sideway-moving plates 521a, 521c widthwise along the front surface of the copying-paper receiver 503. As shown in Fig. 15, the copying-paper receiver 503 is provided with a pair of sideway-moving plates 521a, 521c which are apart widthwise from each other; a bottom stopper 519 adapted for making contact with the bottom end of the copied paper stacked on the copying-paper receiver 503; and a transport mechanism having a transfer belt 520 driven by a motor (not shown) for driving the stacked copied paper forward and discharging the same from the copying-paper receiver 503 onto the outlet tray 506. The sideway-moving mechanism 521 has a left side moving unit provided for contacting with the left-hand side of the copied

paper and a right side moving unit provided for contacting with the right-hand side of the copied paper stacked on the copying-paper receiver 503. The left side moving unit includes a left-side moving plate 521a, having a support portion 521e which is fixed on a rack 521g meshed with a pinion gear 521h driven by an actuator (a motor) 521i. The actuator 521i is rotatable in both c.c.w. (counterclockwise) and c.w. (clockwise) directions upon receiving a drive signal from the controlling section 2. When the actuator 521i is driven to rotate the pinion gear 521h in c.w. direction, the rack 521g, being meshed with the pinion gear 521h, is driven to move rightward direction, thereby moving the left-side plate 521a rightward direction. The right side moving unit includes a right-side moving plate 521c, having a support portion 521j which is fixed on a rack 521m meshed with a pinion gear 521n driven by an actuator (a motor) 521p. The actuator 521p is rotatable in both c.c.w. and c.w. directions upon receiving a drive signal from the controlling section 2. When the actuator 521p is driven to rotate the pinion gear 521n in c.w. direction, the rack 521m, being meshed with the pinion gear ~~52n~~ 521n, is driven to move rightward direction, thereby moving the right-side plate 521c rightward direction. Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 13-150766 discloses, in figures (i.e., Fig. 3), one of typical types of such mechanism. However, the copying-paper sideway-moving mechanism according to the present invention is not necessarily limited to this kind of mechanism which is configured by a rack, a pinion, a motor and other members) The sideway-moving plates 521a, 521c guide sheaves of copying paper carried into the copying-paper receiver 503, enabling each sheaf to move widthwise along the surface of the copying-paper receiver 503. Thereby, each of the sheaves which have been moved widthwise can be discharged onto the sorting outlet tray 506. This allows each copying-paper sheaf to be discharged, from its own discharging

position, onto the sorting outlet tray 506.

Amend paragraph 0049 of the application to read as follows:

[0049] Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 are flow charts showing an operation of the image forming apparatus shown in Fig. 2. For example, an operation screen shown in Fig. 4A is first displayed on the operation displaying portion 600. If the cascade sorting key 609 is pushed to designate the cascade sorting mode, a numerical value inputted by means of the ten key 602 is designated as the number of copies (or the number of sets). If the stapling key 610 is pushed, stapling processing is designated. If the punching key 611 is pushed, punching processing is designated (a step S1).

Amend paragraph 0055 of the application to read as follows:

[0055] Next, the controlling section 2 switches the discharge branching guide 111 to the side of the discharging roller pair 110. Then, the discharging roller pair 110 discharges the copying paper on which the image data has been copied in the image forming section 100, to the after-processing section 500. If punching processing is designated (or if YES in a step S8), the controlling section 2 executes, by means of its control signal, the operation of the punching portion 501 (a step S9). Then, the copying paper carried into the after-processing section 500 is carried into the copying-paper receiver 503, after its punching processing has been conducted. If punching processing is not designated (or if NO in the step S8), the copying paper carried into the after-processing section 500 is carried, without receiving punching processing, into the copying-paper receiver 503.